

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The indication that claims 4, 6, 9, and 11 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, the subject matter of claims 3-4 has been added to claim 2 and the subject matter of claims 8-9 has been added to claim 7 (claims 3-4 and 8-9 being canceled) to place claims 2, 5-7, and 10-11 in condition for allowance.

Claims 7-11 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, and have been amended as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10, and 12 were rejected as unpatentable over MODARRESSI et al. 6,667,971 in view of ARAUJO et al. 6,118,785. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include subject matter from allowed claims 4 and 9, respectively. Specifically, these claims have been amended to provide that the header processor is arranged and adapted to determine which one of a PPP data packet and a link control packet is inputted from the first interface and, when the link control packet has been inputted, the segmentation and reassembly section segments the link control

packet into cells to be forwarded to the PPP link controller by the switch, wherein the PPP link controller performs a link establishment procedure based on the link control packet in the cells. New claims 13-14 include subject matter from claims 3 and 8, respectively.

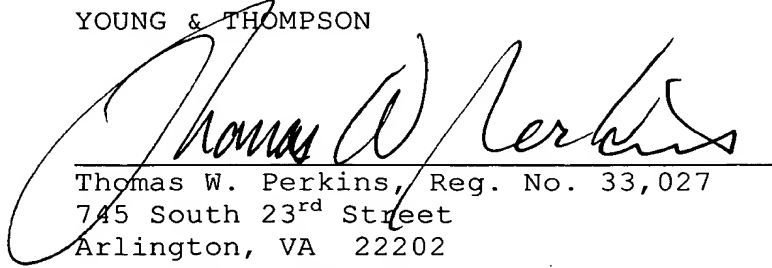
The references have been reviewed and they do not disclose at least that when the link control packet has been inputted, the segmentation and reassembly section segments the link control packet into cells to be forwarded to the PPP link controller by the switch, where the PPP link controller performs a link establishment procedure based on the link control packet in the cells. Accordingly, claims 1 and 12-14 are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins", is written over a horizontal line.

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